

REMARKS

Claim 1, 7 and 8 are pending in the present application. Claim 1 has been amended. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification, for example in paragraphs [0027] and [0050]. Claims 2-6 and 9-13 have been cancelled without prejudice. Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in view of the amendments above and remarks below.

Claim 13 is objected to due to certain informalities. Because claim 13 has been cancelled, it is respectfully submitted that this objection is moot.

The drawings are objected to because of certain reference characters. Applicants have amended the specification to address the inadvertent mislabeling of certain reference characters in the drawings. The specification has been amended to comport with the drawings, such that 1393 represents the single cell structure and 1390 represents the evaporation inhibiting layer. In addition, reference label 1388 has been deleted from the specification and replaced with 1390. Withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 10, and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Pat. Appl. Publ. No. 2004/0209136 (Ren). Claims 2 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ren in view of WO 03/009410 (Peled). Claims 5-6 and 12-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ren in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,722,773 (Plowman). Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ren in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,808,838 (Wilson). Due to the cancellation of claims 2-6 and 9-13, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of these claims is moot. In addition, Applicants traverse the rejections of claims 1, 7 and 8.

Among the limitations of independent claim 1 that are neither taught nor suggested by the prior art is a solid electrolyte fuel cell having an evaporation inhibiting layer that "is made of a woven or unwoven fabric containing fibrous cellulose."

Ren discloses a passive direct oxidation fuel cell system. The cathode filter 290 is made of expanded PTFE. Ren's PTFE cathode filter is not an evaporation inhibiting layer "made of a woven or unwoven fabric containing fibrous cellulose," as recited in independent claim 1. Accordingly, independent claim 1 patentably distinguishes over Ren.

Neither Peled, Plowman and/or Wilson remedy the deficiencies of Ren. None of these references teach or suggest an evaporation inhibiting layer "made of a woven or unwoven fabric containing fibrous cellulose," as required by independent claim 1.

Claims 7 and 8 depend from and contain all the elements of independent claim 1. These dependent claims recite additional limitations, which, in combination with the limitations of independent claim 1 are neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited references. Accordingly it is respectfully submitted that claims 7 and 8 also patentably distinguish over the prior art.

In view of the above amendment, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Dated: September 11, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

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